

Lesson 7:

A Solid Foundation – Our Identity in Christ (Part 2)

- I. We reside in two realities at the same time: the spiritual (unseen but eternal) reality and the physical (visible but temporary) reality.
- A. Our new identity in Christ is a spiritual (eternal) reality.
1. Matt. 3:11 Christ will baptize with the Holy Spirit.
 2. 1 Cor. 12:12-13 We were all baptized by one Spirit. This is a permanent change that takes place in us through our union with Christ, at the moment of salvation.
 3. Romans 6:1-7 The Apostle Paul uses the picture of water baptism to explain the spiritual reality of our identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection.
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:15-19 What is God's purpose ?
- v. 15 That we who live (resurrected with Christ – pictured as coming up out of the water) would no longer live for ourselves, but for Him.
- v.16 That we would view all people from God's viewpoint, not judging their worth and value by outward appearances.
- vv.17-19 Giving us the ministry of reconciliation.

C. Our behavior does not always reflect our identity in Christ.

“But, one may sigh, after all, Paul, aren’t we still human? Don’t we live in a world full of lust and evil desires? The ‘evil desires’ are the values and lures that lead us away from obedience to Christ. They are the grave clothes that are carried over from the former life to the new. Specifically, they are the habits of sin learned in the old Adamic lifestyle.”¹

By “grave clothes,” Johnson is referring to Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead (John 11:41-44). The “habitual sins” come from strongholds, which we’ve learned are beliefs and attitudes that are contrary to the Word of God, which Satan uses to enslave us to sin. (Examples: bitterness, self-reliance).

D. Identity vs. Behavior: It is only as we perceive ourselves according to God’s Word as being greatly loved by God and credited with the righteousness of Christ, that we can live rightly.

1. Isaiah 53:5-6 In God’s court of law, Christ was declared guilty in our place, and He paid the penalty through His death.
2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 We have been made righteous through our union with Christ, so that we can live righteously!

This Week’s Memorization Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21

*“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

¹Alan F. Johnson, *Everyman’s Bible Commentary: Romans* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1974), 115.

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Small Group Discussion Questions

Note to Discussion Leaders: It is helpful to begin by asking the women if there was some point in the lesson that they identified with, or that was new to them, before turning to the following discussion questions.

- 1) When you came to faith in Christ, you were placed into Him, and credited with His righteousness. Therefore, when the Father looks at you, He sees Jesus! What difference can knowing this make in your sense of purpose, in your security, in your faith?

- 2) Insecure people cannot face the truth about themselves because they believe their worth and value are based on their performance. Do you see yourself as insecure? What is God showing you about yourself through this lesson? How can knowing that the Father fully accepts us, make us secure enough to hear the truth about ourselves?

- 3) Think about the habitual sins you brought over from your old (unsaved) life (ex: root of bitterness, victim mentality). How are they affecting your life today? Do you see that we need others to help us see things about ourselves that we are not aware of, so that we can get free of them?